

# Ballineaspaig Bulletin



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
DENNEHY'S CROSS, CORK

**30th November, 2014**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**No: 1235**

## Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

On October the 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, I was blessed to be among the group of pilgrims who departed for the Holy Land from Ballineaspaig parish. This journey was the fulfilment of a lifelong dream, to walk where Jesus had walked on earth.

From the town of Tiberias, in Galilee, we drove by coach along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, recited our first rosary in the Lord's land and embarked for Capernaum, Peter's home place. Under a brilliant blue sky, the boat slid quietly across the calm sparkling waters, birds sang, peace reigned. Some of the "happenings" around this sea crowded into my mind – Jesus calling the first disciples, Jesus calming the storm, Jesus walking on the water, the miraculous draught of fishes etc. As we prayed on the boat, I could almost hear the voice of Jesus speak to me. From Capernaum, we continued by coach to Tabgha, to the Church of Peter's Primacy.

I have a beautiful memory of the celebration of our first Mass in the Holy Land, here in the open air, under the spreading branches of a shady tree, the sun glistening on the sea, with Fathers Bertie and Billy officiating. I could easily imagine the Lord in our midst bidding me follow him.

In Bethlehem, the visit to the Basilica of the Nativity and its underground Grotto of the Nativity was most moving. To be there in that hallowed spot where our Saviour was born over two thousand years ago was truly awe inspiring. We were privileged to join the Franciscan friars for the midday candle light procession from the neighbouring Church of St. Catherine of Alexandria, into the Grotto for a sung Latin service.

We prayed at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. In groups of five we were afforded the opportunity of carrying a wooden cross in the Lord's own footsteps along the Via Dolorosa, through narrow, cobbled and stepped streets, where even in early morning the heat was intense. I could but wonder at the love that Jesus showed as he stumbled and fell and rose again on his sorrowful and painful journey to Golgotha, having already suffered desertion, incarceration, and scourging, all to save me. The visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, in which the sites of the crucifixion and the tomb are contained, was significant.

There were many other highlights on our travels: the Renewal of Marriage Vows at Cana, site of the first miracle worked by Jesus; clad in the traditional white robes, the Renewal Baptismal Vows at Yardenit on the Jordan, remembering John baptising Jesus in the same river. The visit to the Garden of Gethsemane across the Kedron Valley and the Holy Hour prayed afterwards in the Church of all Nations were amongst the other memorable moments of the pilgrimage. So many memories, so many experiences, were added each day that it was and still is difficult to recall them properly. It was a time of numerous blessings. I felt and feel, to paraphrase the words of Peter, it was good for me to be there.

I must add that a great debt of gratitude is owed to the pilgrimage leaders, Fathers Bertie O'Mahony and Billy O'Sullivan, to Nora of Premier Travel and to Louis, our indefatigable Palestinian Catholic guide, for their care of each and every one on the trip and to the pilgrims whose previous experience in the Holy Land was offered so generously and enhanced the experience for all the novices.

Beannacht Dé orthu.

*Irene Higgins.*

## NOTICE BOARD

### First Friday:

Next Friday, 5th December, 2014, is the First Friday of the month. Calls to the sick and housebound on the usual days.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Next Friday, 5th December, 2014, after the 9.30am Mass to 7.30pm followed by Mass.

### St. Joseph's Young Priests Society:

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, 4th December, 2014 in the Parish Centre at 3.00pm.

### Hearing, Happening, Hoping: Scripture reflection for Advent:

Three sessions on Tuesday's 2nd, 9th, 16th December at the Cork & Ross Pastoral Development Office beginning with coffee at 10.30am and session from 10.45am to 11.30am. The office is located in the Parochial House in Ballyphehane. All are welcome.

### Glasheen School Concert:

An evening with Cara O'Sullivan on Fri. 5th December at 7.30pm in the Lough Church. Tickets available at the door on the night or from Glasheen School Offices at €20.00.

### L'Arche Christmas Craft Fair:

On Sunday 7th Dec. from 10am to 4pm in the L'Arche workshop (in between school & Church in Togher). Admission free.

### Rita Lynch Exhibition:

Rita Shaw (nee Lynch) the famous Irish Soprano, late of Model Farm Road, was born on the 2nd December, 1914 in Macroom. On the hundredth anniversary of her birth, the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Mary Shields, will officially open an exhibition on Rita's life at the Cork City Library on the 2nd December at 7.00pm, covering her career as a soprano in Ireland and around the world. A CD featuring a selection of Rita Lynch's performances will be launched on the night.

### Lord Mayor's Concert 2014:

On Saturday 6th December at 8pm in the City Hall, Cork in aid of local charities. Tickets available from Pro Musica.

### Youth 2000 Ireland—Christmas Retreat:

In Newbridge College, Newbridge, Co. Kildare from Fri. 12th to Sun. 14th Dec. Over 500 young people from across Ireland (aged 16-35) are expected to attend with all newcomers very welcome. This is a great opportunity to find out what your faith is all about in a friendly, chilled out atmosphere. Free buses available. Online booking necessary, see [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie) or phone (01) 6753690.

## Christmas Campaign in aid of Turkwell Parish, 2014

**Christmas cards and gift vouchers will be available in the Parish Office after Masses this weekend Saturday/Sunday 29th/30th November, 6th/7th/8th and 20th/21st December and also after the 9.30am Mass on weekdays.**

### Weekend Psalm:

*First Sunday of Advent - Year B*



God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

## REST IN PEACE

We offer our sincere sympathy to the family, relatives and friends of **Doreen O'Donovan**, Kenley, who died recently.

## IN SYMPATHY

We offer our sincere sympathy to **Ber Healy**, Bishopstown Park on the death of her sister, Veronica Roche, Charleville.

*May they rest in peace*

### MIDNIGHT MASS:

Please note that there will be Midnight Mass at 12 midnight on Christmas Eve, 24th December, 2014. in this Church.

## ADVENT CAROL SERVICE



The Annual Advent Carol Service will take place this **Sunday, 30th November 2014** at 7.00pm in the Church of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, Dennehy's Cross, Cork.

**All welcome.**



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### CONTACT DETAILS

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**087-251 9940**

### MASS TIMES

**Sunday**  
9.00, 10.30, 12.15  
Saturday Vigil 6.15pm

**Weekdays**  
9.30am only

**Eve of Holydays**  
7.30pm

**Holydays**  
9.00, 10.30 &  
7.30pm